

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8-11 are pending. Claims 1 and 10 are the only independent claims.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,335,361 (Ghaem). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ghaem in view of U.S. Patent 5,726,786 (Heflinger). Claims 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ghaem in view of Heflinger and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,304,357 (Ohhata et al.). Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an optical data bus communication system of an artificial satellite. The system comprises: a plurality of first devices, each of which is equipped with an optical transmitter each transmitter transmitting signals of a differing wavelength; a reflection means that is provided on the entire inner surface of, or at prescribed locations inside, the case of the artificial satellite; and a plurality of second devices, each of which is equipped with an optical receiver that receives optical signals that are transmitted from the optical transmitters both directly and after reflection and diffusing by the reflection means, each receiver receiving optical signals of a different wavelength and reproducing the optical signals from these received signals.

A feature of claim 1 neither taught or suggested in the cited art is the feature by which each transmitter transmits signals of a different wavelength, and each receiver receives optical signals of a different wavelength. In the Office Action, the position was taken that Ghaem shows all these features. Applicant disagrees.

Ghaem is directed to an integrated circuit module that permits devices in the module to communicate with one another by means of electromagnetic waves. In Ghaem,

each chip includes a receiver and a transmitter. The shape of the interior of the housing, combined with a reflective inner surface, allows direct path point to point communication from a transmitter on one integrated circuit to a receiver on another integrated circuit. For example, the alignment of transmitter 105 and the receiver 113 of a different integrated circuit is such that it receives the information signal from transmitter 105. Dedicated point to point, or point to multipoint transmitters are so arranged on various ones of the integrated circuits. See col. 3, lines 13 through 36. In addition, a broadcast transmitter 147 is aligned so that its signal will be reflected to each receiver, for broadcasting, for example clock information.

However, there is no teaching in Ghaem that each receiver receives optical signals of different wavelengths. Instead, Ghaem relies on directionality for point to point communication. Moreover, even where the use of non-infrared signals in addition to infrared signals is shown, these extra signals are provided so as to avoid interference with the infrared signals. There is no teaching that when this technique is used in Ghaem *each* receiver receives optical signals of a different wavelength.

For at least the above reasons, Ghaem does not anticipate the limitations of claim 1. Claim 10 is a corresponding method claim that recites similar features and is believed patentable for similar reasons. Moreover, there is no mention in Ghaem of artificial satellites, or that the system is used in an artificial satellite, as recited in each of the independent claims.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and passage to issuance of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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